

# SW AREA NEWSLETTER

Spring of 2008

Time to spring into action



## SW Area Weed District

### Coordinators

Anaconda/Deer Lodge County

Sharon Scognamiglio 563-4055

Beaverhead County

Jack Eddie 683-3790

Broadwater County

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Butte/Silver Bow County

John Moodry 497-6460

Gallatin County

Dennis Hengle 582-3265

Jefferson County

Sam Little 425-4211

Madison County

Margie Edsall 843-5594

Powell County

Jason Smith 490-5409

## Madison County Weed Board By Margie Edsall, Coordinator

I'm sure many of our readers are busy making plans for the upcoming weed season as well as many of the Weed districts throughout Southwestern Montana. With the continuing squalls that we have encountered this spring many of these projects will see delays. Something this area has not experienced for the past seven or so years. A friendly reminder to everyone about the newly listed noxious weeds that have been added by the State. They have also included another category to the State Noxious Weed List. This category IV has been included to place specific weeds on a watch list. At this point it is categorized as having the potential to become a real problem and the State believes that we must all be aware and diligent in tracking it's spread. At this time Scotch Broom is the

only weed on this new category list. Additional noxious weeds that have been listed include Category I Hoary Alyssum; this noxious weed can be found throughout areas of Southwest Montana. It is normally found along roadsides and will bloom from early to mid July through late October to early November. Newly listed Category II weeds include Blue Weed a cousin of Houndstongue. Category III newly listed weeds are Flowering Rush and Japanese Knotweed, both these weeds started out as ornamental plantings. Along with the new listed weeds are also some re-categorized noxious weeds. Rush Skeleton weed which has been a Category III weeds has been changed to a Category II weed, and Dyers

Woad a Category II weed is

now a Category III weed. Many changes to keep in mind this coming season when conducting your weed control. If you would like additional information on these noxious weeds feel free to call the office at (406) 843-5594, or your area Weed District Office.

### Madison County Events

6/2-6/3- Crew Training

6/11-Burma Rd

6/16-Hollowtop

6/23-Tammarak

6-24-Horse Cr.

6/25-S. Boulder

6/28-RUBY WEED DAY

7/7-Cataract Lake

7/12-BEAVERHEAD SPRAY DAY

## Behind the Scenes in Jefferson County

Spring is upon us, or so we seem to be inclined to think that despite the repeated snowstorms that come our way. The longer hours of daylight combined with the usually warmer temperatures and increased moisture set the stage for the return of our great nemesis (the reason for our existence as an agency): noxious weeds.

Spring also means that with the arrival of our ever-present foes, the humans are interested in preparing to engage them in the perpetual annual battle. Not everyone has the background and experience with weeds to successfully combat the troublesome nuisances in existence, so the Weed District is helping the masses equip themselves with strategies and resources to

fight the good fight.

Since January, the District has attempted to host at least one training session each month, available to the public to allow private applicators to renew their license credits and to offer information to anyone looking for it. With the expansion of the county population base, especially in the Montana City

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## Butte/Silver Bow



*In like a lion  
Out like a lamb*

The Butte Silver Bow Weed District has taken a new step in fighting weed problems within the urban area in Butte. The Weed Department has taken over the enforcement of a local ordinance for the management of vegetation on private property adjacent to all public right-of-ways in the urban area. The ordinance has been on the books since 1984 with the authority given to the Public Works Department but has never been enforced so the Weed Board approached the Public Works Director 4 years ago to take over the enforcement of the ordinance and it was agreed that the ordinance would be better under the authority of the Weed Board. After working countless hours with County officials, Chief Executive, County Attorney and the County Commissioners the weed department was given the authority and funding to enforce the vegetation

program. The program has already drawn tremendous support from the local media and private sector and has actually been featured on the Northern Ag. Network. The program has been tailored after the City of Great Falls vegetation program and carries with it a large cost to violators after a simple 10 day notice process to expedite compliance. The Weed Board feels this program will help the community enrichment of the urban area and will also help prevent the transfer of noxious weed seed to rural areas in the county and adjoining counties.

The Weed District is currently gearing up for the 2008 spray season and really looks forward to seeing how the new program will help free up time and man power to implement all of our other programs. This year has started out just like the past few years in re-

gards to hiring quality summer help, again we are finding it harder to retain good employees. I know we all are dealing with this same problem and the BSB Weed District is looking into several types of job sharing to maybe be able to keep quality employees on full time with other departments. I will keep you all informed on how the process proceeds. Fuel cost, labor costs, and supply costs are at an all time high so if any one finds some ways to cut costs please share them. Hope everyone has a great spring and summer.

John Moodry  
Butte Silver Bow  
Weed Control Supervisor  
155 West Granite  
Butte, MT. 59701  
weeds@bab.gov

## Madison County Cont'd



Now an update on the many projects throughout Madison County: The Madison River project will again be in place for the upcoming season. There is approximately \$12,000.00 available through the State Noxious Weed Trust Fund for cost share for landowners. This amount will again be capped at \$1,500.00 per landowner and is on a first come first serve basis. This grant encompasses all of the Madison Valley. The next grant project is the Norwegian/South Willow Creek grant. This includes areas South West of Harrison. This grant has \$18,000.00 for landowner cost share. The last grant area is the

Vigilante, this has approximately \$9,000.00 for landowner cost share. The grant area runs the length of the Vigilante canal for 24 miles. As always Madison County offers cost share for all residents in the County to help fill in the gaps. This cost share caps at \$750.00 per landowner. Last year approximately \$22,000.00 was paid through this program to the residents of our fair County. This program will continue to be in place for as long as the voters continue to support the additional mills used to fund it.

New project in the works for Madison County are a Tall Buttercup project. This is a Category II noxious weed that is spreading at an incredible rate in western portions of Madison County. We will be contacting and meeting with landowners to set up management programs and assess possible grant funding needs for this program.

Well here's hoping everyone has a safe and productive season treating noxious weeds and a friendly reminder that we are here to help you in any way we can.

## Butte-Silver Bow Urban Vegetation Control Program

The Butte-Silver Bow County Weed Department would like to alert all residents, private and commercial sectors to the fact that the county wide vegetation control ordinance will be strictly enforced for the first time since it's introduction April 4th, 1984. Undesirable Vegetation Ordinance No. 196 and Section 8. 12.070 can be found in the Butte-Silver Bow Municipal Code Book. The purpose of Ordinance No. 196 is not to punish offending property owners but to encourage involvement and pride in our community.

The main goal of this ordinance is to address problems associated with uncontrolled vegetation growth which contributes to health and safety issues, fire hazards, and the general poor appearance of our community.

Commissioners for the county

transferred the authority to enforce Ordinance N. 196 from the Public Works Department to the Butte-Silver Bow Weed District.

All complaints will have an investigative process including an on-site inspection of the offending property and a determination of legal ownership of the property. Once ownership is determined a letter of notification for vegetation control will be sent to the owner of the property. Owners are given 10 days from the day the notice is posted or mailed to conform to the above ordinance. A second investigation will be conducted to ensure compliance.

If the offending property is found to be in non-compliance, the BSB Vegetation Control Officer will

schedule necessary mowing and weed control for the property. The property owner will

be billed at a set rate of \$200.00/hr for the service.

If payment for services is not received within 30 days of the bill date, the outstanding balance and penalties will be added to the property owner's taxes

All comments and /or complaints will be greatly appreciated and can be submitted to:

Mark Wilcox

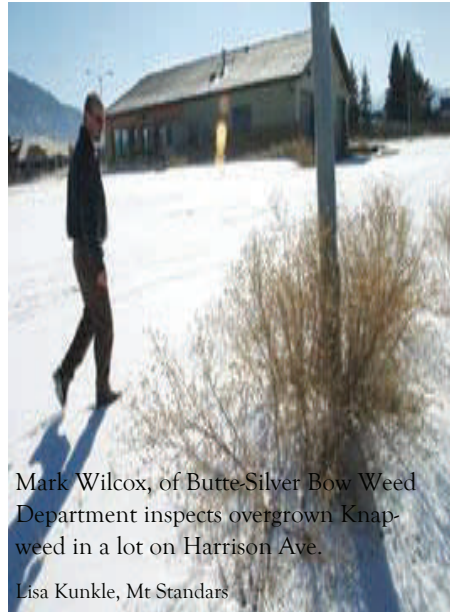
Butte-Silver Bow Weed Dept.

155 W. Granite St.

Butte, Mt. 59710

406-497-6460

[mwilcox@bab.mt.gov](mailto:mwilcox@bab.mt.gov)



## Beaverhead County By: Jack Eddie

Spring has sprung and it's time to get out and start the weed season. As always the Beaverhead County weed program continues to change due to many factors such as the cost of fuel. You will probably see more four-wheeler work being done. We do have a few projects which received funding from many sources. These projects are as follows: Beaverhead River Weed Project, East Bench Weed Project, Perennial Pepperweed Project, Little Sheep-Big Sheep Weed Project, Dyers Woad Weed Project, Weed Free Boarder Project, and NRCS EQIP Project. The funding for these projects came from the

Noxious Weed Trust Fund, RAC, and NRCS.

The following list is the BVHD County Weed Days planned for the upcoming weed season. We would like to encourage each and everyone to come out to as many of these weed days as possible. Without each of us the War on Weeds will not be successful.

### BEAVERHEAD WEED DAYS:

June 10—Wise River

June 11—Burma Rd.

June 12—Lima Dam

June 17—Maiden Rock

June 18—BOR

June 19—Snowline

June 20—Wise River Cemetery

June 21—Blacktail Ridge

June 25—Montana—Idaho

June 26—Big Sheep

June 28—Ruby Dam

July 1—Lima

July 8—Cop Jackson

July 9 Small Horn

July 10—BVHD—Ravalli

July 12—BVHD County

July 15—Trapper Cr.

July 16—Wisdom

July 19—Wise River Pull

July 23—Medicine Lodge

July 24—Jones Cr

July 25—Monida Hill

July 26—Grasshopper

August 2—BOR

August 20—Wisdom

September 4—Wise River

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## Update from the MVRG Weed Committee

The Madison Valley Ranchland Group's Weed Committee is looking forward to a busy and exciting 2008 summer season. We are pleased to be working with a number of partners on several new and continuing projects. Additionally, our 10th Annual Noxious Weed Fundraiser and Auction will be held on August 23, 2008 at the Sun Ranch. The Sun Ranch hosted the first event and is planning a fun-filled 10 year anniversary celebration. If you're interested in attending please contact the Weed Committee at (406) 682-3731.

One of the committee's new projects involves training cattle to eat noxious weeds. This highly innovative practice is funded in part by a Conservation Innovation Grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). This summer we will work with several Madison County ranchers to implement a simple training regime that will help

their livestock learn that many noxious weeds are in fact nutritious forage. We will share project results with everyone later this summer.

Another new project, also funded by NRCS, is the establishment of a special weed management area near Harrison. Landowners within the project will receive cost-share assistance for the treatment of noxious weeds for a period of seven years. This project is particularly exciting as the long-term commitment will allow all landowners to make a significant difference in weed populations within this watershed. This multi-year commitment is somewhat unusual as most projects are funded on a year by year basis. However, due to the persistence of weed seeds the multi-year approach is by far the most effective strategy in gaining control over these invaders.

Thanks to grants from the Missouri-Madison River Fund

and L MT, the Weed Committee will work with the BLM to help facilitate the treatment of noxious weeds along the shore of Ennis Lake and the lower Madison River. Additionally, the committee will publish a brochure highlighting the ways that river recreation can affect the spread and introduction of invasive species. We will also host a boat wash station and weed pull day to help highlight steps to keep from introducing weeds into new aquatic environments. The combination of weed control and educational outreach makes this project particularly exciting.

Another new project, funded by the National Forest Foundation (NFF), will work to address the increase of yellow toadflax in the Bear Cr. Area. Landowners adjacent to the Bear Cr. game range or the forest will be eligible for special cost-share assistance. Funds from this project will also be used to introduce a

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## Beaverhead Cont'd

I would like to ask a few questions, please take some time and think about each of the following:

- Do you enjoy recreating in Beaverhead County?
- Do you enjoy the scenery in Montana?
- Do you like native species?
- Do you like that Montana produces many crops that we consume each day?

Now I would ask, did you an-

swer yes to any of these questions? If so, you need to become involved with your local weed program.

If you have any questions please feel free to call the Beaverhead County Weed Office at (406) 683-3790 or drop an e-mail to:

[jeddie@co.beaverhead.mt.us](mailto:jeddie@co.beaverhead.mt.us)

The following short quiz consists of 4 questions and tells whether you are qualified to be a "manager". The questions are not that difficult.

**1) How do you put a giraffe into a refrigerator? The correct answer is:** Open the refrigerator, put in the giraffe and close the door. This question tests whether you tend to do simple things in an overly complicated way.

**2) How do you put an elephant in the refrigerator? Wrong answer:** Open refrigerator, put in elephant and close the refrigerator. **Correct Answer :** Open the refrigerator, take out the giraffe, put in the elephant and close the door. This tests your ability to think through the repercussions of your actions.

**3) The Lion King is hosting an animal conference, all the animals attend except one. Which animal does not attend? OK, even if you did not answer the first three questions correctly, you still have one more chance to show your abilities. Correct Answer :** The Elephant. The Elephant is in the refrigerator. This tests your memory.

**4) There is a river you must cross. But it is inhabited by crocodiles. How do you manage it? Correct Answer:** You swim across. All the Crocodiles are attending the Animal Meeting! This tests whether you learn quickly from your mistakes.

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## Can Bugs Help Control Noxious Weeds? By Jason Smith, Powell County Weed District

"Around the turn of the century, a European plant that is somewhat toxic to cattle and spread rapidly, so that by 1944 "Klamath weed" was found on over two million acres of range land in thirty counties. Land values decreased so much because of the presence of this weed that ranchers couldn't get bank loans for improvements. Herbicides to control the weed were costly and much of the infested land was inaccessible for spraying anyway. The idea of controlling Klamath weed by importing insects that fed on it was proposed as early as 1922, but authorization was not obtained until 1945. By then it was impossible to consider importations from Europe because of World War II. Fortunately, Australian scientists had been working on biological control of the same weed problem in Australia since 1929, so it was easy to import three species of beetles (Originally from England and

and Europe) that had shown promise of controlling Klamath weed in Australia. One of the three beetle species did not survive, but the other two made it through all the tests in quarantine. One was released in the spring of 1945 and the other in February 1946. Both quickly became established; their offspring were then distributed throughout infested areas. More than 3 million beetles were collected for redistribution in California in 1950 from one colony where 5000 beetles were released in 1945-46! Beetles were also successfully established in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana. Within ten years after the first release, Klamath weed was just an uncommon roadside weed in California. Land values increased, and cattle and sheep were no longer in danger. It was estimated that the beetles saved the California agriculture industry about \$3.5 million dollars per

year in 1953-59, and that these savings continue to accrue each year.

Biological control of weeds historically has usually been considered only after all other management options have been unsuccessful, often decades after the weed is discovered. By that time, the weed can cover immense areas of dense, intractable populations, and there can be thousands of seeds per square foot. Globally thousands of plant species have been accidentally or deliberately introduced into areas outside their natural distribution without their co-evolved natural enemies. Biological control is not a solve all, but is one of the options that should be considered when faced with a noxious weed problem. When eradication or a quick kill of a weed population is the goal, biological control is generally not applicable because it is relatively slow-action, and results

cannot be guaranteed."<sup>1</sup>

More than 10 separate biological control insects are available to control for Spotted knapweed, Leafy spurge, and Dalmatian toadflax. Insects typically work best on sloping sites that are well drained and get plenty of sunlight. Some of the insects can fly and some are limited to crawling. Insects are typically released in western Montana from mid-May through mid-August. Based upon the insect species, the number of insects released at one site can vary from 50–5,000 with cost ranging from \$0.10 to \$1.00 per insect. To determine if your noxious weed infestation may be suitable for an insect release site, contact your local county weed district or MSU Ext. office.

<sup>1</sup> Article from "Classical Biological Control of Weeds" by—Ernest S. Delfosse, Director, National Biological Control Institute

## Big Hole Watershed Weed Committee By Jeanne Caddy

The Big Hole Watershed Weed Committee captured the 2007 Weed Fighters United Award at the Montana Weed Control Association's Annual Conference. Considered a rock star among weed warriors, Dean Stanchfield made a Power Point presentation and picked up the award for the group. Dean's philosophy of "working together to make a difference: has become the BHWWC's mantra as they continue to seek funding to establish more weed management areas in communities along the watershed.

The Fourth Annual Weed Wackers Ball will be held in

Wise River this year on Saturday, September 13th, so please mark your calendars and plan to show up for lots of entertainment, food, drink, and fun! This year, we are asking those of you who are interested, to make a one time \$80 donation to the BHWWC to help purchase tables for the Weed Wackers Ball. Permanent displays will be made and placed in the middle of each table noting the name or names of the sponsor(s). Several tables have already been sponsored, but of course the project needs more support. If you are interested in showing your permanent supporting

the fight against noxious weeds in the Big Hole Watershed, please send a donation to the address listed below.

For more information about the BHWWC, contact Jeanne Caddy, Weed Coordinator at 267-3354 or e-mail:

[bhwwc@smtel.com](mailto:bhwwc@smtel.com). If you would like to make a donation, please mail it to BHWWC

PO Box 121

Divide, MT. 59727

Always remember and never forget, if you give a weed an inch it will take a yard.



# Ponderisms

Can you cry under water?

How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?

Why do you have to 'put your two cents in'.. But it's only a 'penny for your thoughts'? Where's that extra penny going to?

Why does a round pizza come in a square box?

What disease did cured ham actually have?

How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?

Why is it that people say they 'slept like a baby' when babies wake up like every two hours?

If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?

Why are you IN a movie, but you're ON TV?

Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?

Why do toasters always have a setting that burns the toast to a horrible crisp, which no decent human being would eat?

If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a stupid song about him?

Do the alphabet song and twinkle twinkles little star have the same tune?

Baa, Baa Black Sheep also goes to the same tune as the alphabet song.

Why did you just try and sing the two songs above?

If electricity comes from electrons then does morality come from morons?

Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him for a car ride, he sticks his head out the window?



## Greetings from Broadwater County By: Pam Converse, Coordinator

The winter has been very busy with trainings and grant writing. Our hard work paid off and we were awarded funding for the North Elkhorn Weed Management area near Winston. We will also be working with Lewis & Clark County on a sheep and goat grazing project in the Spokane Hills. Landowners in both projects have been working together for a number of years. Spray days are being planned and noxious weeds will soon be mapped.

On March 26th the South-

west area put on our annual Commercial Applicator training. We had an excellent turnout, interesting speakers, and a great meal. We also had our first private applicators training. There were about 36 participants and we expect it to increase next year if we do the training again.

It was a colder winter so as summer approaches it is time to pull out those sprayers and make sure before you need them that they faired the winter well. Broken hoses, loose fittings and cracked tanks

could spell disaster. If your herbicides were left out over the winter, check to see if they are still effective and remember to agitated them before use.

This summer, do not be afraid to bring weed samples into your county weed or extension office for identification. The weed may be noxious and new to your area. It is best to find out what the weed is before it becomes a problem. There might even be a reward.

### "MANAGER"

According to Andersen Consulting World wide, around 90% of the professionals they tested got all questions wrong. But many pre-schoolers got several correct answers, disproves the theory that most management consultants have the brains of a four year old.

## Behind the Scenes Cont'd

Area, there are many landowners new to the area who have no knowledge of noxious weeds and how to control them. Smaller, 2 hour evening sessions have been moderately attended, but probably more so because weeds aren't on many peoples' minds in the middle of winter. People have come hungry for information and have left with an arsenal of pamphlets and other mate-

rial, as well as with whatever we feed them from the podium.

The by-product of the training sessions is that it offers a platform to present the upcoming June mill levy vote and what those mills will be used for as well as inform the public of some of the services offered in Jefferson County.

The end of April brings the

Jefferson River Rally into the spotlight, offering the District the chance to showcase what we have to offer, as well as get the public thinking about how to prevent noxious weed spread. The rally also provides a terrific opportunity to teach the public to identify noxious weeds in the area so they may be treated.

Possible summer projects

Include mapping weeds in the Bull Mountain area for treatment next season, as well as a collaborative effort with the Jefferson Canal to begin mapping Leafy Spurge along the canal banks. Both may be written into grant proposals for next spray season.

By Stephanie Blasenak, Assistant Coordinator for Jefferson County



## MVRG Cont'd

new noxious weed curriculum, "What's in Your World?" to students who attend Bear Cr. Days. This environmental education centered day is a great place to teach students about invasive species and the risks they pose to the environment.

The Weed Committee will

continue to work with various partners on other continuing projects including the Madison River Pilot Sheep Grazing Project, the Madison River grant funded by the Montana Department of Agriculture's Noxious Weed Trust Fund, and the Madison County Insectary. If you have any questions about any of these projects or

activities, please contact the MVRG Weed Committee at (406) 682-3731.

Thank you and good luck in your continuing battle in the "War on Weeds". May we all have a productive and enjoyable summer season.

## From the Bureau of Land Management—Dillon Field Office By: Mike Mooney

It's hard to believe that spring is here already! It seems like just yesterday that we were putting everything away for the winter and now it's time to start getting ready for the new season. I thought I would write this short article to let everyone know what the BLM—Dillon Field Office's noxious weeds control plans are for the 2008 growing season.

The Bureau of Land Management—Dillon Field Office is responsible for managing noxious weeds on all BLM administered public lands within Beaverhead and Madison

counties. To help meet this responsibility the BLM has entered into agreements with both the Beaverhead County and the Madison County Weed Boards to do weed control on public lands. Both counties will have a crew that will be mostly dedicated to doing weed treatments on BLM administered lands. This year to help out the counties in some of the more infested areas we have hired five seasonal workers that will make up three crews: one will focus on the Bear Trap Wilderness and BLM managed sites along the Madison river, the second

will focus on the area of the South Tobacco Roots and the area surrounding Alder and Virginia City, the third crew will consist of myself and one seasonal, our main focus will be on the remaining areas, attending county sponsored "Weed Days", and addressing any new infestations that are reported.

This is a large area to cover and even with this large of a crew there are areas we will miss. To help reduce the chance of an infestation not being found and treated I would like to encourage

everyone that if you find or know of an infestation of noxious weeds please report it to either the Dillon Field Office at 683-8000, your County Weed Control Office or County Extension agent. With your help we may be able to stop this threat from



US BLM Logo

## Jefferson County By: Sam Little, Coordinator

A standard question asked of County Weed Coordinators is "What do you do in the winter time"? The general answer is the work day slows down from 13 hours a day to 10 hours a day.

Jefferson County will be adding informational material and more training to our ongoing activities in the coming season. Gasoline prices and

general economic conditions may lower land stewardship and weed control on homeowners list of priorities. They may not have the extra bucks to spend on herbicides and contracted weed control. But weeds, noxious or nuisance, pay no attention to politics or economics. The weed war still goes on.

Northern Jefferson County is an urban interface area with many weed problems. The good news is, owners of small acreages are becoming aware of the harm caused by noxious weeds. The bad news is many of them do not have any idea what to do about it.

It is like the person who called on a Saturday afternoon last summer saying, "I am standing in a store looking at weed stuff, what do I buy?"

Today people may not have the extra dollar for weed con-

trol so we want landowners to get the value for their dollar. We try to inform landowners on methods of weed prevention and low cost control. Our Out Reach Director is working on that. She is putting together a series of pamphlets that cover subjects from Non Chemical Weed Control, What is a Weed Management Plan, and Weed Rules and Regulations. Other pamphlets will cover some of the problems with weeds in our county and hints about management and weed prevention. These are designed to provide quick sources for additional information. The District is also getting it's act together and providing weed management programs throughout the county. We try to address the problems found in specific areas of the county.

In the coming season, we will continue work on the Fish Cr. Grant. Last season a lot of weed treatment was done in the upper

reaches. This season we plan more work on the smaller acreages at the lower end. There will be monitoring and examination of Bio Control release areas, where they work and where they don't. Of course, there is the standard work load of roads and public places requiring our loving care.

In view of the high cost of living, we do not expect the herbicide cost share program to be as big as last year, but we will be trying to work with landowners on weed prevention and low cost weed control. "The Weed War Still Goes On".

Our Boulder Office number is (406) 225-4165

Whitehall Office (406) 289330



## Gallatin County Weed District By Dennis Hengel

The Gallatin County Weed District has had a busy winter. Some of the events we have been involved in this winter included the Third Annual Gallatin County Weed Summit, two NWTF Grant proposals, continuation of the Gallatin/Big Sky WMA, developing the Greater Yellowstone gravel pit certification program and several education projects. Details are as follows:

The third annual Gallatin County Weed Summit was held at the Gran Tree Inn, Bozeman, in February. There were 35 attendees representing 14 agencies including Jefferson County Weed District, municipalities of Belgrade and Bozeman, State agencies of MDT, DNRC, NRCS & FW&P, County agencies of Extension Service & Conservation District, Federal agencies for Forest Service & Yellowstone National Park & private organizations from Gallatin Valley Land Trust. The summit was very successful with the group planning and strategizing cooperative efforts for 2008 regarding on-the-ground treatment projects, implementing municipality noxious weed management, mapping & education. Fred Tubb of the Farm Bureau received the Outstanding Agency Award.



Betty Biggs accepting the Agency Award on behalf of her Father Fred Tubbs.

- \* Two grant applications were submitted to the NWTF. The first grant application was for the continuation of the Frog Rock WMA. The Frog Rock WMA is located in the Bozeman Pass. The second grant application was for the Upper Madison WMA which includes the West Yellowstone area. The Upper Madison WMA was awarded \$35,000 (half the requested amount). The Frog

Rock WMA was awarded the full amount \$10,981.

- \* The cooperative program with the Gallatin/Big Sky WMA will continue this coming field season. The Weed District is working in cooperation with the Big Sky Weed Committee to provide outreach and implement noxious weed management in the Big Sky area. This is the fourth year of the program. Josh Kellar and Jody Fagan with Rocky Mountain RC&D are administrators of the program. The Weed District provides staff, enforcement capabilities and technical assistance to the program. The Gallatin/Big Sky Committee was awarded a NWTF education grant this year.
- \* The Greater Yellowstone gravel pit certification program will become a reality this year. The GYCC will provide grant funds for the Weed District to hire a gravel pit inspector. The work schedule is to conduct two inspections of 50 gravel pits scattered throughout the immediate greater Yellowstone area including Montana, Idaho & Wyoming.
- \* The Gallatin County Weed District worked in cooperation with Broadwater County, to host a Commercial Applicator training in March & a Private Applicator training in April. Both events were very successful and were held at the Headwaters Livestock Pavilion, Three Forks. Approximately 32 applicators attended the commercial applicators training. Twenty one licensed private applicators attended the private applicator recertification training. The Weed District will plan on conducting the Commercial Applicator training on a yearly basis.
- \* In April the Gallatin County Weed District hosted the MWCA certified Realtor Training presented by Becky Kington. Sixteen licensed realtors attended the training seminar. The Weed District received numerous

compliments on the quality of the seminar. Many thanks to Becky Kington and to the following presenters: Tom Rogers (County Planning), Ron McOwen (Western Conservation), Jennifer Mohler (Conservation District), Craig Jourdonnais (FW&P) Scott Compton & Debi Pierce (DNRC, Helena), Fred Bell (Weed Board), Jim Jacobs (NRCS), John Ansley and Dennis Hengel (Weed District) The Weed District will plan on conducting the seminar again next year.

- \* The Gallatin County Weed District weed booth was setup at several trade shows including the Great Rockies Sport Show, the Wild West Winterfest, the KBOZ Home Show, the Bozeman Home/Garden Show and at the Rocky Mountain Supply customer appreciation day. We have also been participating in the local radio talk shows. These outreach events have been tremendously successful. We Receive quite a bit of feed back from small acreage landowners at these events.

These events are an excellent way to "Spread The Word and Not The Weed".



Keith Mainwaring, "The Weed of Warrior", received the Weed Fighter of the Year Award.